

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A beauty product selection method, comprising:
accessing a facial image;
receiving from the user a selection of at least one beauty product for simulated application to the facial image;
simulating the at least one selected beauty product on the facial image;
determining a recommended beauty product based at least in part on the at least one selected product; and
simulating the at least one recommended beauty product on the facial image.
2. The method of claim 1, further including causing the facial image to be displayed to the user.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the recommended beauty product is simulated on the facial image while the simulation of the at least one selected product appears on the facial image.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein causing the facial image to be displayed includes providing software that facilitates display of the facial image.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the facial image is an image of the user's face.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein causing the facial image to be displayed includes processing an initial facial image in a manner to thereafter permit simulated application of a beauty product to a selected portion of the facial image.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from the user an affirmative request seeking a recommendation, and wherein the simulation of the

recommended product appears on the facial image after the user affirmatively seeks a recommendation.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the request identifies at least one of a brand, price, store, and product characteristic.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising displaying a button activatable to cause a recommendation to be displayed.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein simulating a recommended beauty product includes sequentially simulating alternative recommendations.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising causing the facial image to be displayed to the user, wherein a first alternative simulated recommendation is displayed simultaneously on the facial image with a display of the at least one selected product, and wherein thereafter a second alternative simulated recommendation is displayed simultaneously on the facial image with a display of the at least one selected product.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing the user with a toggle switch to toggle between displays of the first and second simulated recommendations.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the recommended product is complementary to the selected product, wherein the method further comprises maintaining a data structure identifying products, and wherein determining a recommended beauty product is accomplished by accessing the data structure.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the data structure is populated with information derived from at least one of advice of beauty experts, user preference data, user purchase history, and survey data.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising eliciting personal information from the user, wherein the recommendation is a function of both the at least one selected product and the personal information.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the personal information includes at least one of age, skin type, skin texture, skin tone, wrinkles, hair color, hair style, hair condition, eye color, allergies, facial features, demographics, user preferences, and purchase history.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the user with an ability to select a basis for a recommendation, the basis being at least one of consumer survey data, consumer buying preferences, and expert advice.

18. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
causing an additional facial image to be displayed to the user; and
causing a second recommended product to appear on the additional facial image.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein multiple facial images are displayed simultaneously.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein each facial image has a differing combination of beauty products simulated thereon.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein accessing the facial image and receiving the

user selection occur via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the user.

22. A method of simulating beauty product application, the method comprising:

displaying for a user a facial image on a display;

receiving from the user a selection of at least one beauty product;

identifying a recommended beauty product complementary to the at least one selected product;

notifying the user of the complementary beauty product;

providing the user with an option to trigger a simulation of a beauty product application of at least one of the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product; and

simulating the beauty product application on the facial image in response to the user's trigger.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein identifying a complementary product is performed using an artificial intelligence engine.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the artificial intelligence engine is based on at least one of a neural network, constraint program, fuzzy logic, classification, conventional artificial intelligence, symbolic manipulation, fuzzy set theory, evolutionary computation, cybernetics, data mining, approximate reasoning, derivative-free optimization, and soft computing.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein providing the user with an option to trigger a simulation includes providing the user with an option to trigger a simulation of both the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the simulation of the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product occurs simultaneously on the facial image.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the simulation of the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product occurs sequentially.

28. The method of claim 22, further comprising providing the user with an option to change a color of the selected beauty product.

29. The method of claim 22, further comprising providing the user with an option to change a color of the complementary beauty product.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the option to change the color is based on at least one of a color bar, color palette, progressive color adjuster, and textual entry.

31. The method of claim 22, wherein the facial image includes at least one of a photograph, simulation, and graphical representation.

32. The method of claim 22, wherein the method is conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein receiving the user selection occurs via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the user, and wherein notifying the user occurs via the network.

33. The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving a request from the user for an alternative complementary product recommendation.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising providing the user with an option to trigger a simulation of the alternative complementary product.

35. The method of claim 33, further comprising providing the user with an option to change a color of at least one of the selected beauty product, the recommended complementary beauty product, and the alternative complementary product.

36. A beauty product selection system, comprising:
a display for displaying a facial image;
means for receiving a selection by a user of at least one beauty product for simulated application to the facial image;
an identifier that recommends a beauty product based on the at least one selected product; and
a simulator that causes on the facial image a visual simulation of the at least one selected beauty product and the at least one recommended beauty product.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the simulator causes the visual simulation of the recommended beauty product on the facial image while the simulation of the at least one selected product appears on the facial image.

38. The system claim 36, wherein the display includes software that facilitates the display of the facial image.

39. The system of claim 36, wherein the facial image is an image of the user's face.

40. The system of claim 36, further including a processor for causing an initial facial image of the user to be processed in a manner to thereafter permit simulated application of a beauty product on a selected portion of the facial image.

41. The system of claim 36, further including an interface providing the user with an option to affirmatively seek a recommendation, and wherein the simulation of the recommended product appears on the facial image after the user affirmatively seeks the recommendation.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the interface provides the user with an option to specify at least one of brand, price, store, and product characteristic.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein the interface further includes a button activatable to cause a recommendation to be displayed.

44. The system of claim 36, wherein the simulator causes alternative simulated recommendations to sequentially appear on the facial image.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the simulator causes a first alternative simulated recommendation to be displayed simultaneously on the facial image with a display of the at least one selected product, and wherein thereafter the simulator causes a second alternative simulated recommendation is displayed simultaneously on the facial image with a display of the at least one selected product.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein the simulator further includes a toggle that alternates between displays of the first and second simulated recommendations.

47. The system of claim 36, further comprising a data structure identifying complementary products and wherein the identifier is configured to access the data structure to recommend a beauty product.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the data structure is populated with information derived from at least one of advice of beauty experts, user preference data, user purchase history, and survey data.

49. The system of claim 36, further comprising an interface for eliciting personal information from the user, and where the recommendation is a function of both the at least one selected product and the personal information.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein the personal information includes at least one of age, skin type, skin texture, skin tone, wrinkles, hair color, hair style, hair condition, eye color, allergy, facial features, demographics, user preferences, and purchase history.

51. The system of claim 36, further comprising a selector for providing the user with an ability to select a source of a recommendation, the source being at least one of consumer survey data, consumer buying preferences, and expert advice.

52. The system of claim 36, wherein the display presents two facial images, and wherein differing recommended products are displayed on each image.

53. The system of claim 52, wherein multiple facial images are simultaneously displayed.

54. The system of claim 53, wherein the simulator visually simulates a differing combination of beauty products on each facial image.

55. A system for simulating beauty product application, the system comprising:

an image generator for causing display of a facial image;

means for receiving from a user a selection of at least one beauty product;

an identifier for identifying a recommended beauty product complementary to the at least one selected product;

a notifier for notifying the user of the complementary beauty product;

an interface providing the user with the option to trigger a simulated application on the facial image of at least one of the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product; and

a simulator for causing beauty product application to be simulated on the facial image in response to the user's trigger.

56. The system of claim 55, wherein the identifier is an artificial intelligence engine.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein the artificial intelligence engine is based on at least one of a neural network, constraint program, fuzzy logic, classification, conventional artificial intelligence, symbolic manipulation, fuzzy set theory, evolutionary computation, cybernetics, data mining, approximate reasoning, derivative-free optimization, and soft computing.

58. The system of claim 55, wherein the interface provides the user with an option to trigger a simulation of both the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product.

59. The system of claim 58, wherein the simulator simulates the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product simultaneously on the facial image.

60. The system of claim 58, wherein the simulator performs at least one of simulating the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product on

differing facial images and sequentially simulating the selected beauty product and the complementary beauty product.

61. The system of claim 55, further comprising an interface for providing the user with an option to change a color of the selected beauty product at least one of before the visual simulation and after the visual simulation.

62. The system of claim 55, further comprising an interface for providing the user with an option to change a color of the complementary beauty product.

63. The system of claim 62, wherein the interface is at least one of a color bar, color palette, progressive color adjuster, and textual processor.

64. The system of claim 55, wherein the facial image is at least one of a photograph, simulation, digital image, and graphical representation.

65. The system of claim 55, wherein the interface is further configured to provide the user with an option to request an alternative complementary product recommendation.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein the interface provides the user with an option to change at least one color of the selected beauty product, the complementary beauty product, and the alternative complementary product.

67. The system of claim 65, further comprising a storage location for storing the facial image.

68. A beauty product selection method, comprising:
receiving personal information from a user;
receiving from a user a selection of at least one beauty product;
simulating the at least one selected beauty product on a facial image;

determining a recommended beauty product based on the at least one selected product and the personal information; and

simulating the at least one recommended beauty product on the facial image.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the personal information includes an image of the user on which the simulating occurs.

70. The method of claim 69, further comprising processing the image of the user to determine facial characteristics, and wherein determining takes into account the facial characteristics.

71. The method of claim 68, wherein the method is conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein receiving the personal information, and receiving the user selection occur via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the user.

72. A beauty product selection method, comprising:

accessing a facial image;

receiving subject-specific information;

using the subject-specific information to identify at least one beauty product for simulated application to the facial image;

simulating the at least one identified beauty product on the facial image;

determining a recommended beauty product based at least in part on the at least one identified product; and

simulating the at least one recommended beauty product on the facial image.